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CURRENT PERIODICALS.

In *Science Progress* for January, 1918, "Recent Advances" occupy about one-third of the number. The subjects dealt with in this number are: Mathematics (10 pages); Astronomy (7); Physics ($5\frac{1}{2}$); Physical Chemistry (3); Inorganic Chemistry (3); Organic Chemistry ($4\frac{1}{4}$); Geology ($5\frac{3}{4}$); Mineralogy and Crystallography ($6\frac{1}{2}$); Botany (3); Plant Physiology ($5\frac{1}{2}$); Zoology (6); Paleontology (5); and Anthropology (2). J. Reilly and W. N. Rae give an account of recent work in the determination of the density of liquids. By Lamb and Lee's "refinement of the hydrostatic method it is possible to obtain results correct to one unit in the seventh decimal place." The pyknometer method is criticised, and various specific gravity bottles are described.—James Small gives an account of the "age and area" law associated with the name of J. C. Willis of the Ceylon Botanic Gardens. The law is thus stated: "The geographical distribution of a species within a fairly uniform country not broken by serious barriers depends upon the age of that species within that country," with certain limitations. He gives an account of the controversy that has arisen, discusses the whole question, and states that his own new work on the evolution and geographical distribution of the *Compositae* has found the "age and area" law "very valuable indeed, confirming in the case of every tribe the phylogenetic conclusions reached in the study of the morphology and physiology of the subdivisions of that large and undoubtedly recent family."—K. M. Parker sums up all that is known up to the present of the structure and development of the pituitary body in all classes of vertebrata.—J. Reid Moir sees no valid reason for accepting the doctrine that Asia witnessed the earliest stages of man's evolution, and sees no cause or causes to preclude England, as far as pure theory is concerned, from having the distinction of being the home of earliest man. A Pliocene Age is indicated by our paleolithic flint implements, the Piltdown treasures, and other finds, which are all sufficiently significant to warrant care in awarding any preeminence in men's pre-paleolithic history to "unknown" Asia.—W. C. McC. Lewis gives under the heading "Popular Science" the first part of a paper "On the Structure of Matter,"—excellent, as far as it goes; but, if it prove to be as "popular" as it is good, we would have much reason to be pleased with the knowledge and taste of the masses in Britain.—Lord Leverhulme deals in an opti-

mistic spirit with the abolition of slums. Being himself a broad-minded and public-spirited man, he sees no serious difficulty ahead in the assault upon vested interests.—Philip E. B. Jourdain reviews in characteristic style the very remarkable collection of papers and addresses published last year by A. N. Whitehead under the title *The Organization of Thought*.—Characteristic also is the notice of Garrison's *History of Medicine*, in which the Editor curtly demolishes certain claims: "I cannot see how F. Schaudinn did anything of any importance whatever in connection with malaria, except to make bad mistakes." Thus are reputations made, and unmade!

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In *Scientia* for February, 1918, Andrew C. D. Crommelin, in his article on "The Galactic Circle as a Plane of Reference for Star Places," offers for criticism the particular plane that he has suggested for adoption, and sets forth a scheme which, as he says, "has been so widely advocated, and appeals to so many minds from its symmetry and simplicity, that I have little doubt that it will sooner or later be realized." He calls for suggestions and amendments, and hopes with their aid to place the scheme in such a form as "to command general assent."—U. Pierantoni develops from his own researches and those of others an argument which tends to throw a flood of light on the long-vexed problem of phosphorescence. He points out that further work along definite lines is still needed, and prophesies that the zoologist, botanist, physiologist, chemist and perhaps the pathologist, will all be called upon to play a part in the discovery of the mystery connected with photogenic bacteria, and the part played by micro-organisms in the phenomena of luminescence.